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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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Executive Secretary

January 20, 2000



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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

Mr. Stuart Havenstrite
Havenstrite Management Services
8111 Maio Drive
Sandy, UT 84903

Dear Mr. Havenstrite:

Subject: OK Mine monitor well sampling

I have reviewed your data submission of January 6, 2000, in which you requested changing the frequency of sampling for OK Mine's monitor wells from quarterly to semiannually until the mine is operational.

According to Part II.H.8 of the mine's ground water discharge permit, eight independent grab samples were to have been taken bimonthly from each of the four monitor wells at the mine site in order to establish background variability of ground water chemistry and to determine protection levels for the permit. Eight is the minimum number of samples which can give a statistically representative sample of background variability. It is also preferable that background samples be collected before any activities are begun which may affect ground water chemistry.

Review of our records indicates that we currently have 5 sets of quarterly data from all wells, and one additional sample each from wells MW-1 and MW-2. Because the mine is not currently operational, you may continue to collect quarterly samples until the necessary eight samples from each well have been collected. After that, you may collect samples semiannually for as long as the mine remains inactive. If any work starts on facilities covered under the mine's ground water discharge or construction permits, you must resume quarterly sampling according to permit conditions.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Novak, Environmental Scientist
Ground Water Protection Section

MN:sal

cc: Southwest Utah Health Dept.
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

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FILE:NEVADA STAR OK MINE

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